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ZOOLOGY.

The White-Fish of Lake Chapala. — In 1879 the writer secured a single specimen of the famous "Pescado Blanco," a delicious food fish found in Lake Chapala, in Mexico. This was described under the name of *Chirostoma estor*. It is an atherinoid fish (Silversides or Pesce-rey), translucent and delicate in substance and about a foot in length. Last winter Mr. J. O. Snyder and the writer visited this lake and obtained a very large collection of the "Pescado Blanco." On critically examining it we were surprised to find that the material contained six distinct species, similar in color and appearance but differing in technical characters, and not one of them identical with the original *Chirostoma estor*. Two of these six species have been lately described by Dr. G. A. Boulenger from specimens taken by Mr. A. C. Buller, under the names of *Chirostoma lucius* and *Chirostoma sphyrcena* (*Ann. Mag. Nat. Hist.*, 1900, pp. 54, 55). These names have priority over those printed but not yet published by Jordan and Snyder.

D. S. J.

Evermann on Species and Subspecies. — In *Science* for March 23, Dr. B. W. Evermann gives a very sane and accurate account of the formation of species and subspecies, using two species of darters in Lake Maxinkuckee as illustrations. He closes with these words: "We sometimes hear the remark that 'systematists often go too far and describe as new species or subspecies forms which differ but slightly from known forms, that they give specific or subspecific value to differences which are due merely to slight differences in environment.' This misses the whole point. What produces species and subspecies except slight differences in environment with greater or less geographical isolation? And when we see these differences why should we refuse to admit their existence or their meaning?"

D. S. J.

Smith on the Fishes of Woods Holl. — In *Science* for December 15, Dr. H. M. Smith adds a number of tropical species to the list of fishes known from Woods Holl, raising the number of species to 240, the largest recorded from any Atlantic locality north of Key West. The species not hitherto recorded from north of Carolina are the following: *Muraena retifera*, *Apogon maculatus*, *Epinephelus adscensionis*, *Garrupa nigrita*, *Mycteroperca bonace*, *Mycteroperca inter-*